

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A solid, water-free and alkanol-free composite material comprising organic and/or inorganic water-insoluble particles or pigments in a mixture with at least one compound of the general formula (I)



where

R is H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or benzyl

A is ethyleneoxy

B is C<sub>3-10</sub> alkyleneoxy or mixtures thereof,

it being possible for groups A and B to be randomly distributed, alternating or in the form of two or more blocks in any order,

n is an integer in the range from 4 to 8

x is a number in the range from 1 to 25

y is a number in the range from 0 to 10

and x + y is at least 1,

wherein the alkoxylation and any subsequent purification of the alkoxylation product are conducted in such a way that the alkoxylates are alkanol-free.

Claim 2 (Original): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the particles are present in an amount in the range from 85 to 99.9% by weight and the compounds of the general formula (I) in an amount in the range from 0.1 to 15% by weight, based on the total amount of the composite material.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The composite material according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the compound of the general formula (I) is an alkyl glycol alkoxylate or alkyl diglycol alkoxylate obtainable by alkoxylating C<sub>4-8</sub> alkyl glycols or diglycols with the parent alkylene oxides of the units A and/or B.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The composite material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the compound of the general formula (I) is preparable by DMC-catalyzed alkoxylation.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a composite material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 by mixing the organic and/or inorganic water-insoluble particles or pigments and the compounds of the general formula (I) with heating where appropriate.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of using [[use]] of a composite material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 as a filler and/or dye and/or for preparing aqueous dispersions.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of using [[use]] of a composite material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 for producing paper, paints, inks, coatings, formulations for mineral processing or paper finishing.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A paint, ink formulation, coating or overcoating composition or formulation for mineral processing, papermaking or paper finishing, comprising a composite material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 and, if

appropriate, surfactants which in solution in water at 5 g/l exhibit an interfacial tension of less than 45 mN/m at 20°C, polymers if appropriate and, if appropriate, customary auxiliaries.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of using [[use]] of compounds of the general formula (I) as defined in claim 1[[, 3 or 4]] to treat organic or inorganic water-soluble particles or pigments for increasing wettability with polar liquids.